ED Extremities Worksheet

1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

This play is set modern day in a New Jersey farmhouse. It revolves around Marjorie and Raul who attempts to rape Marjorie while she is at home. Marjorie’s roommates, Terry and Patricia also come home and witness the aftermath of this attempted rape. The play takes place completely in the living room and kitchen of the farmhouse.

2. What is the *intrusion*?

The intrusion occurs when Raul doesn't leave Marjorie’s house and tears our her phone line.

3. What is the *unique factor*?

“Today is the day when…” Raul decides to rape the three women in this farmhouse.

4. What is the *dramatic question* that should be answered by the end of the play?

What will the women do with Raul??? Will they kill him?

5. Provide an illustration of the *two kinds of exposition* that the play has in it.

Known to one: Only Marjorie knew how bad Raul’s injuries were until she took his blindfold off towards the end. His bloody face and blindness cause the other women to insist he get some medicine.

Known to all: The court system will not believe Marjorie was nearly raped because she is not hurt in any way.

6. Identify the most *theatrical moment* in the play and of what importance it seems to be.

The most theatrical moment would have to be at the end of Act II when Marjorie repeats the threats Raul used against her earlier. This causes him to break down and confess to several other rapes. The women then resolve to get him help.

7. List some of the *themes* of the play.

* revenge for wrongs done to you
* humans acting as/being treated as “animals”
* the destructive nature of rape
* supporting a friend vs following the law

8. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?

Marjorie wants Raul to suffer for what he has done to her, yet her friends and to some extent her own conscience stop her from killing him. Terry seems to be most uncomfortable with this situation and wants to call the police and go to work the next day; Marjorie forbids both of these things. Raul at first just wants to rape the women in this house, then after Marjorie restrains him, he wants to persuade her not to kill him. His volatile personality, in addition to Marjorie’s rage, makes his survival somewhat uncertain…

9. Describe some possible *images* in the play and how does the *title* help us understand the play.

Putting Raul in the fireplace behind the bike helps to emphasize the animal imagery. Marjorie calls him “the animal” throughout the show and keeps him tied up in a sort of cage.

The wasp in the beginning is like a preview of Raul: it disrupts Marjorie’s day and makes her very upset. Similarly to how Marjorie has no physical proof of the attempted rape, the wasp leaves no stinger in her leg.

The title “Extremities” makes an audience think of something far out, over the top, or *extreme*. Raul’s assault on Marjorie is extreme, and so is her response. Both people engage in violent, inhumane acts that should not be normal, and the title foreshadows these actions, preparing the audience for something shocking.

10. Briefly define the *family relationships* that are examined in the play.

Raul mentions his family several times, each time slightly changing their situation - sometimes his wife is pregnant, sometimes he has several children to take care of, sometimes he is employed, sometimes not. Terry also accuses Marjorie of seducing her boyfriend, Tony by writing letters to him and changing clothes whenever he came over. Raul also briefly mentions Marjorie’s sick father, but she doesn't seem particularly close with him. The three women in the play act as sisters as they decide what to do with Raul and ultimately decide to get him help.